

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00599 201030Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /019 W
-----201457Z 112264 /43

R 200940Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 915

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CGEN, IR(NAVIDI, SAID)
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON IRANIAN CITIZEN SAID NAVIDI

REF: STATE 007377

1. AN IRANIAN BY THE NAME OF SAID NAVIDI IS KNOWN TO USIS. HE HAS HAD A NUMBER OF POSITIONS IN VARIOUS IRANIAN INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, OR AT LEAST HE HAS STATED THAT HE HAS HAD SUCH POSITIONS. NONE HAVE BEEN OF PARITULAR IMPORTANCE AND USIS OFFICERS AND IRANIAN EMPLOYEES HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR HIM.

2. MOST RECENT USIS CONNECTION WAS IN EARLY 1976 WHEN NAVIDI PRESENTED HIMSELF AT POST SEFERAL TIMES AND STATED THAT ETTELA'AT PUBLISHING COMPANY, ONE OF IRAN'S TWO MAJOR PUBLISHING FIRMS, HAD ASSIGNED HIM TO GO TO US TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL SECTIONS FIRM PLANNED TO CARRY IN ITS TWO DAILY NEWPAPERS. AT THAT TIME NAVIDI ALSO ASKED POST'S ASSISTANCE, THROUGH USIA, IN INTRODUCING HIM TO POTENTIAL AMERICAN ADVERTISERS. POST INFORMED NAVIDI THIS COULD NOT BE DONE BUT DID INTRODUCE NAVIDI TO AGENCY OFFICES IN WASHINGTON FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INTERVIEWS AND EDITORIAL MATERIAL. AGENCY PERSONNEL SPENT INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME ATTEMPTING TO BE HELPFUL TO NAVIDI AND RESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUESTS. IN END, AS FAR AS POST IS AWARE, NAVIDI

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SENT NOTHING TO ETTELA'AT AND SPECIAL SECTIONS WERE PULLED TOGETHER BY POST AND ETTELA'AT JOURNALISTS IN TEHRAN.

3. ETTELA'AT CONTINUES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NAVIDI IS ITS "ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UNITED STATES." PUBLISHING FIRM OFFICIAL STATES THAT NAVIDI DID GO TO MEXICO CITY TO COVER RECENT INAUGURATION. MAHMOUD HATEF, CHIED OF THE

FOURTH POLITICAL (AMERICAS) DEPT. OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAYS NAVIDI DID NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT IRAN AT INAUGURATION. HOWEVER, HATEF RECALLED THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BY THIS NAME APPEARED IN MEXICO CITY ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS AGO, REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS A VISITING JOURNALIST AND IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A MEXICAN NEWSPAPER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE IS A RELATIVE OF THE SHAH. THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CONTACTED NAVIDI ABOUT STORY AND HE SAID HE WAS MISQUOTED AND HAD NEVER TOLD THE MEXICAN REPORTER HE WAS SHAH'S RELATIVE. HATEF SAID IT PROBABLE THAT NAVIDI WILLFULLY PROVIDED FALSE INFORMATION TO MEXICAN JOURNALIST. HATEF'S ASSUMPTION PROBABLY CORRECT AS NAVIDI HAS PENCHANT FOR NAME DROPPING.

4. POST HAS CHECKED WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING UNDERSECRETARY FOR TOURISM OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM AND CAN FIND NO HINT OF QUOTE THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF TOURISM AND GAMING OF IRAN UNQUOTE. THERE IS INDEED A SUPREME ECONOMIC COUNCIL CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER BUT THERE IS NO SAID NAVIDI ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ORGANIZATION.

5. IN SUM, IF SAID NAVIDI KNOWN TO USIS IS SAME INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SUBJECT OF REFTEL, EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE FAVORABLE REFERENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN00599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0893
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770132/aaaabbrm.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 7377
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3544779
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON IRANIAN CITIZEN SAID NAVIDI
TAGS: CGEN, IR, (NAVIDI, SAID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b1c61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009